

CHRB NEWS & REVIEW

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD

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MORETTI KNOWS THE TERRITORY

Marie Moretti has been a California racing commissioner for only six months, but to see her in the stable area at Santa Anita one morning last winter, you would think she was born to the job.

That was her at Carla Gaines' barn, checking on some young horses that Moretti owns in partnership. And, yes, that was her in the track kitchen having coffee with two old pals, trainers Mel and Warren Stute.

Moretti seems just as comfortable in the State Capitol. As the onetime special assistant to Governor Gray Davis back when he served as chief of staff to then



MARIE MORETTI

Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr., Moretti should feel welcome in the current administration.

She also ran a non-profit educational association for former Governor Edmund G. "Pat" Brown in the 1980s. And she was appointed in 1997 by then Governor Pete Wilson to the California Italian-American Task Force.

Her appointment by Governor Davis to the California Horse Racing Board on October 22, 1999, provides her with the opportunity to have worked with four very diverse California governors.

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The California Horse Racing Board is considering whether trainers in California should be required to participate in a continuing education program.

Such a program would increase their awareness of the proper use of equine medications, expose them to new research findings relating to the proper care of horses, and familiarize them with local, state and federal requirements for compliance with housing and labor laws, including the proper payment and reporting of wages.

In an industry in which public perception plays such an important part, we should establish a continuing education program for those with the greatest responsibility for the health, safety, and treatment of all racing participants.

Taking steps in this regard, the CHRB revised and freely distributed its horseman's handbook explaining equine medication rules, policies, procedures, and programs in simplified language. And the Board actively disseminates information generated by various equine research programs at UC Davis, such as those dealing with horseshoeing practices and the relationship of training and racing intensity to catastrophic injuries.

However, this could be accomplished in a more structured way by either requiring or strongly encouraging trainers to obtain this information in the way most convenient to them. For example, they could attend the Piedra Foundation's annual equine conference, which focuses on equine health-care subjects, such as the prevention and management of injuries to performance horses.

The Thoroughbred Owners of California could assist in the area of labor relations by regularly reminding members that the selection of a trainer, who cannot be licensed without an owner placing a horse in his or her care, should include a review of the trainer's compliance with housing requirements and wage and hour laws.

The goal of any continuing education program would be for the protection of all concerned: protecting horses, protecting employees, protecting owners, protecting jockeys, protecting the public, and protecting trainers from unintended violations of laws and regulations.

Roy C. Wood, Jr.
Roy C. Wood, Jr.



IN THE GOLDEN STATE

Technology permits CHRB to provide free transcripts of meetings on its Web site

CHRB staff member Harold Coburn explains how easy it has become for the public to view full, detailed, complete transcripts of all regular CHRB meetings, simply by going to the CHRB's Web site a week or two after the meeting.

Transcripts of the proceedings of all regular California Horse Racing Board meetings can now be viewed at the CHRB Web site: <http://www.chrb.ca.gov>

The transcripts have been made available free of charge because of concerns expressed by racing commissioners that the official minutes tend to summarize discussions and votes, so the minutes sometimes leave out statements that might be of interest to the public.

Due to the high cost and the amount of staff time that would be involved in copying the documents, these transcripts are mailed only to racing commissioners. However, the Internet provides a quick and inexpensive method of providing this information to the public as well.

Previously, anyone desiring a transcript had to either pay \$200 directly to the court reporter service or request a copy from the Board, which took longer and cost 10 cents per page to cover the cost of copying.

Under the new system, a complete transcript with any corrections appears on the CHRB Web site within 14 calendar days after the meeting. The reporter service forwards a disk containing the text of the transcripts to Board headquarters. The Policy and Regulation Unit reviews it for errors, then provides it to the Management Information Services Unit, where the text is converted to an Adobe Portable Document format. This allows the public to view the transcript on the CHRB Web site without the ability to modify the text. Those who wish may also download or print the transcripts off the Web site.



CALENDAR

MAY

31 – CHRB monthly meeting in Sacramento.

JUNE

14 – Fair meet opens in Stockton.

28 – Fair meet opens in Pleasanton.

JULY

12 – Fair meet opens in Vallejo.

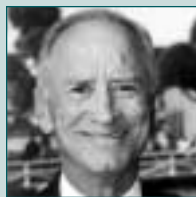
26 – Fair meet opens in Santa Rosa.

26 – Thoroughbred meet opens at Del Mar.

27 – CHRB monthly meeting at Del Mar.

***Articles and photographs appropriate for CHRB News & Review may be submitted to Mike Marten of the CHRB staff:
12235 Beach Blvd., Suite 7
Stanton, CA, 90680.
(714) 890-7004,
fax (714) 890-7006.***

BE OUR GUEST...



The California Horse Racing Board believes the best way to regulate an industry is to be fully informed. The CHRB regularly solicits input from the public and the horse-racing industry, and this guest editorial page is one more forum for that purpose.

This guest editorial is provided by Ed Halpern, executive director of the California Thoroughbred Trainers, the organization that represents trainers throughout the state. Halpern, who holds business and law degrees, has owned horses for more than 20 years and trained horses for 10 years. He assumed his CTT position late last year.

The California Thoroughbred Trainers (CTT) is an organization comprised of over 800 licensed trainers, and is recognized by the CHRB as the official representative of this segment of the thoroughbred industry. We have five basic functions: First, we oversee and administer the pension fund that was established for the benefit of backstretch workers. Second, we provide welfare, educational, and recreation programs for the backstretch community. Third, we represent the trainers in relationships, dealings, and negotiations with the other segments of the industry, including the Thoroughbred Owners of California, racetracks, and CHRB. Fourth, we provide services and programs for trainers. Fifth, we are charged with promoting horse racing to the general public.

The pension fund was established for the benefit of backstretch personnel. There are 3,002 people who are registered to receive current or future benefits. Included in this group are grooms, hot walkers, exercise riders, and trainers. To date, 1,936 people have collected benefits from the fund, including 606 who are now collecting monthly retirement benefits. None of the participants makes any contribution to the program. Funds are derived from a 1% takeout from the total purse pool. Unfortunately, the amount in the fund, although a substantial \$25 million-plus, is insufficient to service the number of possible beneficiaries. Therefore, the plan has been frozen for the past five years. This means that no new members have been allowed to register for benefits and older members have been limited to vesting credit, but not benefit credit. The base benefit paid to an eligible member at retirement is \$300 per month, far

short of the amount necessary to supplement Social Security for almost all recipients. It is our hope that we will, in the near future, find ways to increase the funding for the plan, so that all backstretch personnel, whether recently employed or having longtime experience, will be able to participate in the benefits. It is our plan to ask that the state contribute part of its income from racing to the plan. The state received \$62.7 million in the '98-'99 fiscal year. Some of that money should go to the people that worked to provide those funds.

As part of our second function, which is to provide services and programs for backstretch personnel, we have recreation halls at Santa Anita, Golden Gate Fields, Bay Meadows, and Del Mar. These facilities include stores or vending machines that sell snacks, beverages, and sundry items on what amounts to a non-profit basis. The objective is to give the people who work in the barn areas the opportunity to buy some food and necessary items at as low a price as is possible. We also offer sports and recreation programs such as soccer leagues, baseball leagues, basketball leagues, pool, and card tournaments. We offer field trips, parties, and picnics throughout the year. All of these programs are done at no cost to the people we serve. The CTT is also involved in, and is hoping to expand, the provision of educational opportunities to backstretch workers and their families. We have recently formed grooms committees in Northern and Southern California, so that backstretch workers can keep us informed about their needs, desires, and backstretch problems.

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BOB NIETO

Standing Tall

*The Winner's Circle Award
recognizes excellence among
CHRB employees.*

*News & Review editor Mike
Marten interviewed the
Year-2000 recipient, Bob Nieto.*

Robert Nieto has worked hard practically all of his life. Oh, sure, he goofed off those first few years, but by the time he was 5 or 6, he was standing outside of businesses in Wilmington, Calif., ready to shine the shoes of anyone with a coin in his pocket.

When he was 11 years old, Nieto stood at the dangerously busy intersection of Alameda and Pacific Coast Highway, handing out Los Angeles Herald's at seven cents each as cars paused momentarily to make the exchange. He showed good business sense by pre-selling newspapers. Instead of fumbling for coins each day, some customers gave him 70 cents up front for the next 10 papers, and more often than not they gave him a dollar bill and told him to keep the change.

And so it went. While other students took Christmas and summer vacations, Nieto worked in canneries, unloaded bananas at the docks, and did demanding physical labor at construction sites.

Rising to 6-foot-1 and weighing close to 200 pounds even then, young Nieto was shown plenty of respect by his peers in the largely Hispanic neighborhood of Wilmington. And for the last 40 years, he has maintained that respect as a law enforcement officer, initially with the Los Angeles Police Department, and currently as chief investigator with the CHRB.

In fact, his peers at the Board have demonstrated their admiration by naming him the Year-2000 recipient of the Winner's Circle Award, which is presented annually in recognition of outstanding performance by a Board employee.

"He's a people person who gets along well with everyone and understands the industry," explained Michael Kilpack, the supervising investigator at Santa Anita Park who reports directly to Nieto. "He has an excellent relationship with the various departments at the racetrack, such as security and the stewards.

"Bob is also very supportive of the

"Somewhere along the line while I was growing up I started fighting for the underdog. When I saw someone beating up on some little guy, I walked over and told the bully to pick on someone his own size. As often as not, the bully would take a swing at me, so I paid the price for defending the little guy. But it was worth it."

Bob Nieto

staff. He always backs his people when dealing with security and medication issues. He's definitely hands on, but he lets us do our jobs."

Nieto's behavior, his work ethic, his friendly nature, and his attitudes toward people all trace back to those early years, to values instilled in him by his family. Words like honor, respect, and dedication still mean something to the Nietos, a family with roots in Spain and Mexico. It's a family with intense pride and gratitude for what some of its members have achieved. Nieto demonstrated these attributes early.

"Somewhere along the line while I was growing up I started fighting for the underdog," recalled Nieto. "When I saw someone beating up on some little guy, I walked over and told the bully to pick on someone his own size. As often as not, the bully would take a swing at me, so I paid the price for defending the little guy. But it was worth it."

Helping people made Nieto feel good about himself, so midway through high school he abandoned the idea of becoming an architectural engineer in favor of a career in law enforcement. He studied police sciences at

Harbor College until he turned 21, then he attended the Los Angeles Police Academy. He spent the next 25 years with the LAPD, advancing from patrol to undercover narcotics to forgery to major fraud. After retiring from the LAPD in 1985, he worked six years with the State Lottery Commission as supervising investigator in the border area below San Diego. He joined the CHRB in 1991.

“The most difficult thing about adapting to the CHRB was having to learn all of the rules and regulations, some of which are peculiar to the horse-racing industry,” he explained. “Much of what I learned as a police officer applied to my duties with the Lottery Commission, but much less of it applies to horse racing.

“One of the more interesting and challenging aspects of working with the CHRB involves going beyond investigations and actually presenting the case at a hearing – and sometimes representing the Board on appeal. As a police officer, I would always turn the case over to the District Attorney’s Office for prosecution, and at most I was just a witness at the trial. But with the CHRB you have to go that extra step and actually present the case to the stewards yourself.”

Nieto is a family man. He and his wife, Linda, have two sons and numerous relatives. His father had eight brothers and sisters, who all grew up locally, so today he has cousins living throughout Southern California.

“Once a year we have the Nieto family picnic,” he said with a smile. “We reserve a huge area of a park, and we start cooking and preparing days ahead of time. We play softball and other games. It helps everyone keep in touch.”

This sense of family, this feeling of camaraderie, is something Nieto brings to the workplace. He sees law enforcement, and to a lesser degree the racing industry, as a sort of extended family. When you ask someone about Nieto, they begin by talking about his professionalism and his dedication to work, but they invariably end up talking about how much they like him.

“Bob Nieto has been a friend to everyone in licensing,”

said Norma Williams, CHRB licensing supervisor in Southern California. “He has helped us through many changes. He is always willing to listen, and always has a suggestion or a solution.”

George Slender, one of the stewards in Southern California, described Nieto as “a truly dedicated professional with strong leadership abilities. I have come to consider Bob a good friend.”

Likewise, Robert Gai, the supervising investigator at Bay Meadows, described Nieto as “supportive of my staff” and “instrumental in implementing the CHRB’s Integrity of Racing program,” then added, “He’s an easygoing jokester who loves to tell ‘war stories’ from his days with the LAPD.”

But it’s Kilpack who works the closest with Nieto and who therefore knows him best.

“He’s been a great asset to the investigative section of the CHRB,” said Kilpack. “He has been involved in numerous investigations, from positive test investigations to insurance fraud to cooperating with FBI investigations into race fixing and other serious matters.

“But when the work is done and we’ve all done our jobs,



Bob Nieto (left), chief investigator for the CHRB, is actively involved in many organizations, among them the International Footprinters Association, which benefits law enforcement. To that end, he helped arrange for the CHRB to donate 24 bulletproof vests to the Rosarita Beach Police Department. The vests were accepted by Rosarita Police Director Ignacio Garcia (second from left). Among those attending the presentation were Ben Galvan (far right) and Dr. Harry Ozarowski (second from right), director and president, respectively, of San Diego Chapter 53 of the association.

Ozarowski wrote a letter to CHRB Executive Director Roy Wood in which he expressed appreciation for the donation of the vests, noting that “our brother officers south of the border were very appreciative of receiving these vests. Very few officers are fortunate to have any real protection, and this was something that was very well needed. Our purpose is to encourage friendship and cooperation between peace officers and all persons having a positive attitude towards preserving the public welfare. It is the kindness and support from people and organizations like you that make our purposes attainable.”

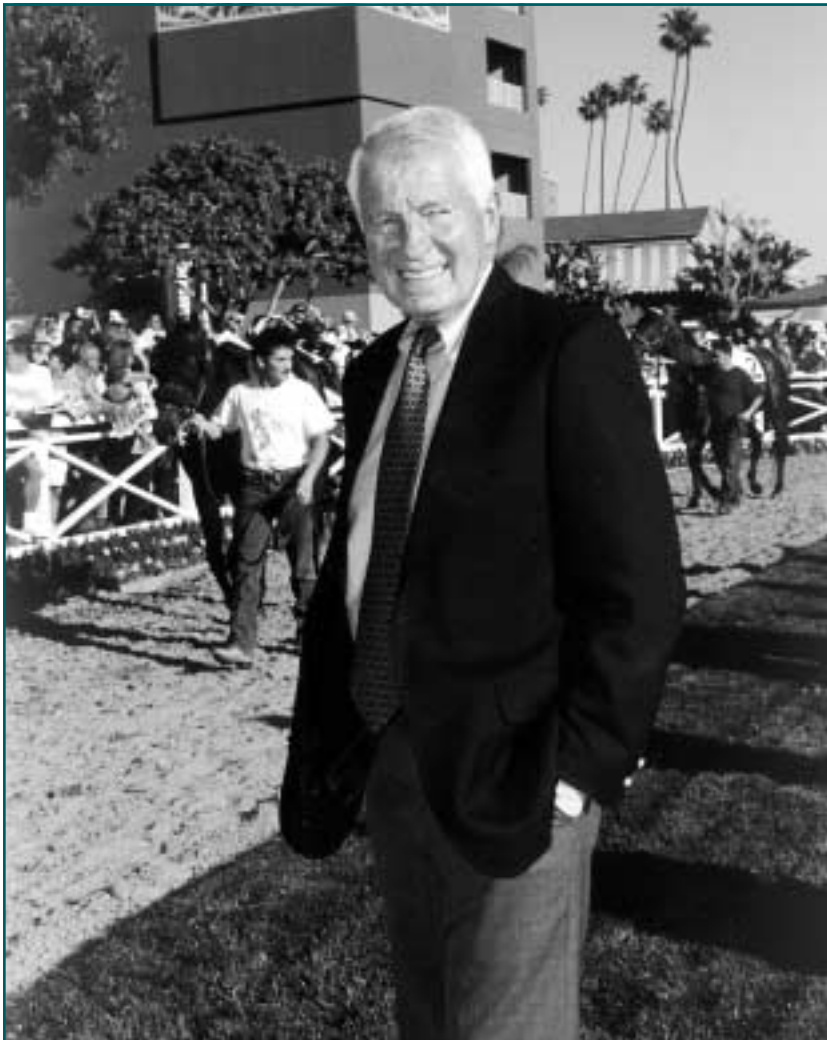
(Continued on page 11)

A Walk Down Memory Lane



RACING FANS FOR MOST OF THEIR LIVES, Betty and George Nicholaw were enjoying themselves at Santa Anita Park in 1971...

...and 29 years later, he was still at Santa Anita Park for opening day of the 2000 winter meet.



George Nicholaw is holding the elevator door open for two employees at KNX Newsradio in Hollywood. He smiles broadly as they enter.

“Good morning, Carol; good morning, Monica,” he beams, eliciting smiles and happy greetings in return.

It’s the same story as we proceed down the hallway to his private office on the third floor. He smiles at everyone he passes, greets each of them by name. They all respond in kind with warmth and appreciation.

George Nicholaw is above all else a sincere and genuine human being. How such a person could rise up the corporate ladder to become vice president and general manager of one of the largest news stations in the world is a mystery to those of us who think of corporate organizational charts as shark-infested waters where the rule is either kill or be killed.

Listeners in the KNX broadcast area get a sense of the man from hearing Nicholaw’s editorials, which always are based on common sense and rooted in humanitarian principles.

He had the same style as a racing commissioner during his eight years on the California Horse Racing Board from 1992 until early this year. If they had given out a Mr. Congeniality Award, he would have won hands down. He and his wife, Betty, regularly attended the races and were popular wherever they went.

Racing fans always felt comfortable walking up to Nicholaw and letting him know how they felt about the way things were, especially when the issue had something to do with pari-mutuel wagering because for most of his years on the Board, Nicholaw was chairman of the Pari-Mutuel Operations Committee.

“I was thrilled when (former CHRB Chairman) Ralph Scurfield put me on the Pari-Mutuel Committee because I’ve always been such a big fan of the sport and I realized that a varied betting menu is one of the most exciting things that racing has to offer,” he explained. “From day one, I let it be known

with George Nicholaw

that I was very receptive to any suggestions for improving the wagering format. Whenever someone came and asked for a new wager or suggested some other innovation, I was their strongest advocate.

“When I think back about my eight years on the Board, improving the betting menu was to me my greatest contribution. We provided fans with a lot more options – trifectas, quinellas, the place pick nine, the rolling pick three, alternate selections for the pick six. It’s a long list.

“On the other hand, the one thing we couldn’t accomplish was to dramatically improve the size of fields, which I know is an important issue for fans because there is more excitement if the fields are large. Believe me, we tried everything we could think of to improve field size. We adjusted racing dates, limited the number of races that could

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BILL SHOEMAKER AND GEORGE NICHOLAW posed at Hollywood Park in the late 1970s.



ALWAYS HONORED TO MAKE TROPHY PRESENTATIONS, Nicholaw joined Richard Mandella and Kent Desormeaux more recently in the winner’s circle at Santa Anita.



CHARLIE WHITTINGHAM LOOKED ON as Nicholaw presented a trophy to Bill Shoemaker and owners Mr. and Mrs. Ray Bell at Santa Anita in 1982.

Happy Retirement to Bob Latzo



BOB LATZO

After almost 40 years in horse racing, beginning as a groom on the East Coast circuit of the harness industry and concluding as one of the most respected racing officials in the country, Bob Latzo has retired and moved to Arizona with his wife, Barbara, where they will spend many of their days playing golf and tennis and visiting with their children and grandchildren.

Latz, 59, was a harness driver and trainer based in Pennsylvania and New Jersey until he changed hats and became a racing official. He was the presiding judge at Liberty Bell Park in Philadelphia when he received a call in 1976 from Norm Towne, the general manager of the harness meet at Cal Expo in Sacramento, asking him to come to California to be a steward. In recent years under contract with the California Horse Racing Board, Latzo worked primarily as a harness steward at Cal Expo and Los Alamitos.

“Bob is one of the hardest-working guys I have ever been around,” said Towne. “He has an unparalleled knowledge of the horse-racing business, and he is always fair and honest, both personally and professionally. As a steward he has been a tremendous asset to the horse-racing industry in California, and he will be very greatly missed. Having said all of that, he is only a mediocre golfer.”



FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES attended Bob Latzo's retirement luncheon at Los Alamitos, including (from left) CHRB Supervising Investigator Mike Kilpack, CHRB Assistant Executive Director Roy Minami, and Tom Ward, a California steward.

Comings and Goings at the CHRB...

Frank Mezquita, senior special investigator, recently transferred from Los Alamitos to the field office at Santa Anita Park.

Mezquita joined the Board in November of 1996 after completing 28 years with the Los Angeles Police Department. He has since become very proficient on racing-related case investigations and presentations before the Board of Stewards.

Being bilingual in English and Spanish, Mezquita has

been particularly helpful at stewards hearings by translating for licensees who only speak Spanish. This also allows him to assist Spanish-speaking grooms and other employees with their problems and complaints. Additionally, with his LAPD background in narcotics investigations, Mezquita has used his expertise to focus on drug-related issues on the backside.

Wendy Zeto, a receptionist at CHRB headquarters in Sacramento, left the Board May 2 to accept a promotion with the Department of General Services.

“Governor Davis has made it clear to me that maintaining the integrity of the horse-racing industry is his chief concern,” she said. “It is my intention to do everything I can to ensure his concerns are met.”

POLITICAL BACKGROUND

Moretti, 48, has been part of the political scene in California for most of her life.

“I got an early start in politics when my brother (the late Assembly Speaker Bob Moretti) first ran for office in 1964,” she explained. “I was just a kid when I started working on his campaign.”

Her interest in horse racing came about 10 years later. A graduate of the UCLA Anderson School of Management Executive Program and Pitzer College in Claremont, she was a classmate of a tall blonde named Cindy who would eventually marry legendary jockey Bill Shoemaker.

“The Shoemakers first got me interested in horse racing,” said Moretti. “That was about 25 years ago. My interest has grown ever since. And of course, my fiancé, Ken Maddy, had a passion for horse racing, and I was able to share that with him.”

“Ken’s leadership and contributions to California’s horse-racing industry were immense and have been recognized with appreciation by many. I truly was deeply touched by the outpouring of admiration and gratitude expressed by those in the thoroughbred industry both nationally and here at home. He’ll be missed more than can be imagined.”

Interestingly, Moretti owned her first horse (a standard-bred) in 1995 in partnership with a friend, Jack Coffey, who served on the California Horse Racing Board for about nine months in 1998.

She currently owns interests in five horses: Work the Room, Got the Votes, Strings Attached, Lots of Chrome, and Cut the Deal.

“I’ve found that what they say about the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat is the same no matter how small the percentage of ownership,” she said. “The emotional roller coaster is the same either way.”

LONGTIME FRIEND OF RACING

Moretti has worked in public affairs and public relations for most of her career. She’s currently in Sacramento with the firm of Goddard Claussen Porter Novelli.

“A few years ago I directed the public relations campaign for SB 2000, the precursor to SB 27, which gave the horse-racing industry some needed license-fee relief,” she explained. “That campaign really provided me with insight into all of the various facets of horse racing. I gained an understanding of its workings. I came to really appreciate the value of horse racing in California.”

“Helping others better understand the role of horse racing in California, that’s really where I see myself being the most helpful.”

Marie Moretti

“I became a convert myself in the process. I realized the impact that horse racing has on agricultural jobs and on state revenues. Horse racing is both an entertainment industry and at the same time a major agricultural industry.”

Moretti could well be just the right person at just the right time for the job of racing commissioner. She has the background, experience, and confidence to firmly regulate the industry and help ensure its integrity. And she has the passion and interest to provide leadership and support for an industry that is vital to the economy of the state.

“Helping others better understand the role of horse racing in California, that’s really where I see myself being the most helpful,” said Moretti. “I don’t lobby. I don’t ask for votes. But I’ve been around the Capitol all my life, so I know a lot of people, including a few in the new administration.”

“Frankly, with term limits in effect, there is a continuing need to educate new legislators and their staffs. I think the Legislature needs to be informed about just how much agricultural land is dedicated to horse racing and how many jobs are dependent on horse racing – not just at the racetracks but on farms and at agricultural-related businesses throughout the state.

“That’s the kind of challenge I’m really looking forward to because that’s where I can lend my expertise.”

And when she’s not at work or in the Capitol, there’s a good chance we will find Marie Moretti at one of the racetracks around the state.

“I love going to the backside. That’s my favorite part,” she said. “I like walking down shedrows. I love watching the workouts.”

“The afternoon, that’s fun, too. It’s true what they say about the beauty and the pageantry of horse racing. There’s nothing more exciting. It can’t be beat.”



be run at meets, and we accommodated racetracks in every way possible to boost field sizes. We made some small advances, but there is still plenty of work to be done in this area by my colleagues who are still on the Board.”

Nicholaw also served as chairman of the Security and Licensing Committee, and he was a member of the Medication Committee and Race Dates Committee, meaning he served on the four committees with the most visible and direct effect on horse-racing operations.

“The people in horse racing are exceptional. The fans are tremendous. And of course we know just how important the industry is to the economy of California...”

George Nicholaw

“When I became chairman of Security and Licensing, I got together with our staff and we proceeded on a very determined course to update all of the rules and regulations,” said Nicholaw. “The entire process took several years, but we finally got that all squared away, so that all of our rules are up-to-date and relevant.

“The big thing while I was on the Medication Committee was making sure that all of the racing venues were safe for all racing participants. We visited every track, looked at all of the rails, inspected all of the racing surfaces, because naturally we were – and still are – concerned about the well-being of the horses, jockeys, and exercise riders.”

Nicholaw’s actions reflected a new philosophy on the Board. Whereas many former commissioners considered certain matters to be off-limits for CHRB oversight, Nicholaw and those who served with him took a broader view of their responsibility to regulate horse racing. They were determined to be proactive in their efforts to protect the public interest and improve the sport.

Nicholaw has spent a lifetime being proactive and getting involved in public affairs. He spent the last 48 years in broadcasting, beginning as program director and broadcaster for radio KDON in his native Salinas, California. He joined CBS in 1955, initially as assistant director of promotion and publicity for KNXT-Los Angeles, later as director of information and community relations for WBBM-TV in Chicago, then as director of community services for WCBS-TV in New York.

He returned to Los Angeles in 1967 to head KNX, making

him the longest-tenured general manager of an all-news format station in the United States. One of the first things he did was convince the attorneys at CBS and officials with the Federal Communications Commission that by broadcasting race results from Southern California racetracks, KNX would not be “aiding and abetting” any form of gambling.

“So you see, even before I became a racing commissioner, I was helping the sport by increasing its exposure to a mass audience,” noted Nicholaw.

Nicholaw has served on dozens of boards, commissions, and committees through the years, including the Los Angeles County Energy Commission during the energy crisis in 1974. Nicholaw and his colleagues on that Commission developed the odd-even gas rationing plan that eventually was adopted statewide and helped reduce the long waits at service stations.

By involving himself so heavily in public affairs, Nicholaw became known around California as someone with common sense who could get the job done – just the kind of credentials former Governor Pete Wilson was looking for in making appointments to the CHRB.

“I was surprised but very happy about my appointment because of my long love for horse racing,” said Nicholaw. “The eight years I spent on the Board only increased my love for the sport. The people in horse racing are exceptional. The fans are tremendous. And, of course, we know just how important the industry is to the economy of California both in terms of the jobs it creates and the revenue it generates.

“I’m encouraged by the many positive changes that have taken place over the last eight years and by the enthusiasm of industry leaders. It seems like there is always one challenge after another, but I feel that in the long run the industry will meet those challenges and that racing has a very strong future in California.”



***Please help us enforce
California’s racing rules.
Call (800) 805-7223 to
report any violations.***

Bob can be just one of the guys, and there's nothing we enjoy more than joining him at his vacation place down at Rosarita Beach and tipping a few margaritas with him."

Not too many years from now, Nieto will be spending a lot more time at Rosarita Beach. At the age of 62, he is thinking about retirement. The thought really hit home recently when he attended the 40-year reunion of the 1960 class of the Los Angeles Police Academy. Only 24 of the 53 original class members showed up, no doubt because many have died, and of the attendees, only Nieto and a few others are still working full time.

"If I do retire soon, I'll stay busy," explained Nieto. "I wouldn't know how to just stop everything. Even when I go down to Rosarita for a weekend, I end up fixing a leak or repairing the roof. I hardly ever just sit still.

"I'm active in several organizations. I belong to the Hispanic American Peace Command Officers Association. And

I'm active in the International Footprinters Association, which is a liaison between law enforcement and business for the benefit of law enforcement. I also work with the Red Cross and DARE program in Mexico. And there's always the chance I will get my PI (private investigator) license and do some side work."

CHRB Chairman Robert Tourtelot said that when the day comes that Nieto does retire, he will be hard to replace.

"He is a real leader and a role model for everyone who works with him," said Tourtelot. "With him at the head of our security arm, we know we have the best investigative staff and the best leadership."



HALPERN

(Continued from page 3)

In fulfilling our third and fourth mandates, our activities in representing our members include acting as liaison with the various departments at the racetracks, working with track management regarding backstretch and track conditions, representing our group interests in front of the CHRB, and monitoring and working with the Legislature in connection with matters that are of importance to our group. We provide forums for our members to express their needs and opinions by creating and monitoring oversight committees. The CTT also provides services to our members, including investigating health insurance and workers' compensation insurance options. We also offer the use of our staff and facilities when needed by our members.

Due to a shortage of backstretch labor, we also offer a horse handler school in which people can learn to work with horses and find entry-level positions in the industry. This school is paid for with CTT funds. We also coordinate an immigrant worker visa program to bring in workers from other countries, such as Mexico, England, Ireland, and New Zealand.

Finally, we attempt to promote horse racing to the general public by using outreach programs, such as information booths at horse fairs. We also offer assistance to other groups that are attempting to promote horse racing. The

CTT also publishes a quarterly magazine that is primarily directed at our members, but is available for general circulation. In an attempt to promote horse racing and at the same time show concern for the welfare of those involved with racing, the CTT donates substantial sums of money to causes and organizations that provide services to horsemen and horses.

With permanent offices at Santa Anita, Bay Meadows, and Golden Gate Fields, and a seasonal office at Del Mar, we are easily accessible to horsemen and their needs. The CTT is currently in the process of working with Hollywood Park to open a permanent office at that facility, which would give us complete coverage at all major tracks in California.

During the past few months, the CTT has stepped up its efforts to increase the services it provides to its members and their employees. As part of this increase in activity, it is our hope to create new programs that will benefit all segments of the industry while improving the programs we already have in place.



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